

EDUCATION

Colorado's population is knowledge-intensive and extremely well educated. In 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau ranked Colorado second in the nation in percentage of population with a college degree, 36 percent of all adults have at least a bachelor's degree.

Colorado colleges and universities offer a broad range of business, management, engineering, and technical degrees. All have programs directed at encouraging women and minorities in technical disciplines and all conduct joint research and training programs with corporations, particularly in technical and scientific areas. Most graduates remain in Colorado to pursue their careers, creating a valuable source of human capital that is augmented with a host of graduates from other states and nations.

Colorado K-12 Education

Colorado's 178 school districts had a Fall 2006 enrollment of 794,026, an increase of 1.7 percent over 2005. Large districts are concentrated in metropolitan areas while some rural areas have very small enrollments. The 10 largest school districts enroll 55 percent of all students, while the remaining 168 districts serve 45 percent of state public school enrollment.

Colorado public schools receive funding from a variety of sources. However, most revenues to Colorado's 178 school districts are provided through the Public School Finance Act of 1994 (as amended). In budget year 2007-08, this legislation provides for over \$5.1 billion of funding to Colorado school districts via state taxes (\$3.25 billion), local specific ownership (vehicle registration) taxes (\$156 million), and local property taxes (\$1.69 billion).

State of Colorado K-12 Education Revenues by Source

<i>SOURCE</i>	<i>PERCENT OF TOTAL</i>
Local Taxes (property and specific ownership)	36%
State Equalization	64%
TOTAL	100%

Source: Colorado Department of Education, 2007

Landmark legislation passed in 2000 requires the participation of all K-12 public school students in the state's assessment system, CSAP. Based on results and improvements, every school in Colorado is issued a Report Card for which annual progress and innovative programs are rewarded, providing Colorado's children the highest quality public education possible. Also passed in 2000, Amendment 23 increased public school funding by requiring that spending on state special purpose educational programs be increased by at least the rate of inflation plus one percent.

Colorado Student Test Scores

Colorado is one of only two states (the other is Illinois) that mandate that all juniors, Grade 11, take the ACT test. As a result, Colorado's average score fell below the national average for the first time. Colorado officials chose to administer the ACT Assessment to all 11th graders because it is a curriculum-based achievement test that matched up closely with their state learning standards. Additionally, it may encourage students who had not previously considered it as an option to attend college.

Colorado's ACT scores for core course students (taking courses designed to college-bound students) are in line with their counterparts in other states, and above the overall composite score.

The SAT is taken by about 26 percent of Colorado high school students, and average scores remain well above national averages.

Colorado Student Performance on College Entrance Exams, 2007

<i>Test</i>	<i>COLORADO Average Score (% tested)</i>	<i>U.S. Average Score (% tested)</i>
SAT	1674 (24%)	1511 (48%)
ACT	20.4 (100%)	21.2 (42%)
	22.2 (core	22.0
	students)	

Source: Colorado Department of Education, 2007

Colorado Educational Attainment

The following table compares Colorado with its neighboring states in terms of educational attainment of the population 25 years and over:

<i>State</i>	<i>Percent College Grads</i>	<i>U.S. Rank</i>
COLORADO	36.4	2
Arizona	24.5	36
Kansas	31.6	12
Nebraska	27.2	22
New Mexico	26.7	25
Texas	25.5	30
Oklahoma	22.9	39
Utah	27.0	23
Wyoming	20.8	47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey – 2006, released March 2007

Colorado Higher Education Fall 2006 Enrollments

Four-Year Colleges and Universities:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>FTE Enrollment</i>
Adams State College	Alamosa	2,604
Colorado School of Mines	Golden	4,362
Colorado State University	Ft. Collins	25,014
Colorado State University-Pueblo	Pueblo	4,112
Fort Lewis College	Durango	3,905
Mesa State College	Grand Junction	5,985
Metropolitan State College	Denver	20,850
University of Colorado – Boulder	Boulder	29,869
University of Colorado – Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs	7,574
University of Colorado-Denver & Health Sciences Center	Denver	15,462
University of Northern Colorado	Greeley	12,168
Western State College	Gunnison	2,198
Four-Year Institution Total		134,115

Two-year Colleges:

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>FTE Enrollment</i>
Aims Community College	Greeley	4,880
Arapahoe Community College	Littleton	6,918
Colorado Mountain College	Glenwood Springs	5,508
Colorado Northwestern Community College	Rangely	1,331
Community College of Aurora	Aurora	4,837
Community College of Denver	Denver	8,782
Front Range Community College	Westminster	14,749
Lamar Community College	Lamar	999
Morgan Community College	Ft. Morgan	1,736
Northeastern Junior College	Sterling	2,537
Otero Junior College	La Junta	1,631
Pikes Peak Community College	Colorado Springs	10,526
Pueblo Community College	Pueblo	5,056
Red Rocks Community College	Lakewood	6,727
Trinidad State Junior College	Trinidad	1,732
Two-Year Institution Total		77,949

Source: Colorado Commission on Higher Education, September 2007

- Fall 2006 enrollments totaled 212,064 at Colorado's public post-secondary institutions.
- Private colleges and universities in Colorado have enrollments totaling approximately 30,000. These include the University of Denver, Regis University, Colorado Christian University, Colorado College, and many smaller institutions.
- Finally, vocational schools and proprietary institutions provide another post-secondary education option for Colorado residents. Vocational schools have average enrollments of 8,000 per year, while the proprietary institutions offer instruction in a wide variety of subject areas, and provide instruction to an estimated 15,000 students.

Colorado Higher Education - Degrees Conferred

Colorado students received 39,918 degrees awarded by 28 public higher education institutions in fiscal year 2006, the most recent year for which there is data. The following table summarizes the degrees granted by major subject area of study.

Over 5,000 Colorado students received degrees in Business and Management, and almost 4,000 received degrees in Math & Computer Sciences or Engineering & Technology in 2006.

<i>Major</i>	<i>Degrees Conferred</i>
Agricultural Science/Agribusiness	939
Business & Management	5,147
Communications	1,686
Engineering	2,536
Health Care	7,502
Mathematics & Computer Science	1,351
Physical Sciences, incl. Bioscience	1,754
All Other (incl. Architecture, Soc. & Behavioral Sci., Education, Liberal Arts, Law, Public Administration, and Fine Arts)	19,003
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>39,918</u>

Source: Colorado Commission on Higher Education, FY 2006 Degrees Granted, July 2007

